



## Frequently Asked Questions



**When did the Northern Kentucky Emissions ✓ Check begin?** The program began in September 1999. It applies to residents who have vehicles registered in Boone, Campbell or Kenton counties.

**Why is Emissions ✓ Check necessary?** Ground-level ozone (smog) is a serious problem in Northern Kentucky. Smog contributes to health problems such as chronic lung and heart diseases, allergies and asthma. Vehicle pollutants such as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons are major sources of air pollution in our area. As a result, the Commonwealth of Kentucky began the Emissions ✓ Check program as an effort to improve air quality. Emissions testing identifies vehicles with increased emissions levels, alerting the owner to needed maintenance. As vehicles are repaired, the air quality in the Northern Kentucky region will improve.

**Am I required to have my vehicle's emissions checked?** Emissions ✓ Check is required every other year for all 1968 and newer, gasoline and Diesel-fueled vehicles weighing 18,000 pounds or less. Motorcycles, alternatively fueled vehicles and vehicles weighing more than 18,000 pounds gross weight are exempt from Emissions ✓ Check.



**What is the Emissions ✓ Check Fee?** The testing fee is \$20 and is payable in cash or by check only. Please **make checks payable to Northern Kentucky Emissions Check**. Credit and debit cards are not accepted.

**When do I get my Emissions ✓ Check?** Vehicles with odd-numbered model years have testing deadlines in odd years. Vehicles with even-numbered model years have testing deadlines in even years.

When your vehicle is due for testing, you have a three-month window to get your Emissions ✓ Check. Your three months include your registration month and the two months prior to it. You should receive a reminder notice in the mail approximately three months before your registration expires. Failure to receive a notice does not exempt a vehicle from the testing requirement.

**Where are the Emissions ✓ Check stations located?** There are drive-thru testing stations in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties. You can test your vehicles at any of the three stations.

**What happens if I don't get my Emissions ✓ Check within the test period?** Motorists who test their vehicle after the three month test period will be charged a \$5 late fee in addition to the \$20 test fee. Also, you will not be able to renew your vehicle's registration until your vehicle has passed Emissions ✓ Check.

<b>When are the testing stations open?</b>	<b>Monday and Wednesday</b>	<b>8 am—7 pm</b>
	<b>Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</b>	<b>8 am—5 pm</b>
	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8 am—1 pm</b>
	<b>Sunday and Holidays</b>	<b>Closed</b>

**How is an emissions test performed?** The emissions test is a three –step process that allows most motorists to remain in their vehicle for the entire test. The procedure for most vehicles is:\*

1. Anti-tampering inspection—visual check for gas cap, fuel filler restrictor and catalytic converter (if part of original equipment).
2. Emissions inspection—emissions levels are sampled while the vehicle idles. If emissions initially exceed the standards, the owner is given the opportunity of having a second test after the vehicle is driven on a dynamometer.\*\*
3. Evaporative system inspection—a pressure test is performed by lifting the hood, clamping the vapor line to the charcoal canister and pressurizing the gas tank and gas cap to check for leaks.

\*Testing procedures may vary depending on the age of your vehicle and its fuel type.

\*\*Four-wheel drive and traction control vehicles are pre-conditioned at an elevated idle.

**What if my vehicle fails Emissions ✓ Check?** If your vehicle fails the test, you will be given a brochure at the testing station with instructions for repairing and retesting your vehicle.



**Need further assistance or have more questions?** If you have additional questions, please call the **toll-free hotline number, 1-877-291-8787**. You must dial 1-877; this is not a local number. The hotline is staffed Monday through Friday from 8 am—5 pm and offers recorded information about the program 24 hours a day.